

FREE

# The Romulus News

MARCH 10, 1994 - MARCH 23, 1994

"the little paper"

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 17

## RHS Students To Sponsor Craft Fair Extravaganza



Thirteen of the 15 student chairpersons who headed up the Class of 1995's Craft Fair Committee (front to back; left to right): Tracy Blizman, Mike Anderson, Mario Thomason, Michele Dick, Danielle Franklin, Sharela Carter, Kristy Cole, Nikeya Lipford, Shalinas Warren, Tangle Garcia, Tyrone Jones, Brian Norman, and Nina Wood. (Not pictured: Josh Remelius and Shannon Warren.) photo: Linda Norman

By Mario Thomason and Danielle Franklin, Romulus High School students and Media Committee chairpersons

Students of the class of 1995 have put together a craft show which will be held in the Romulus High School cafeteria on Saturday, March 19, 1994, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Besides various craft items, the fair will feature free admission, free child care for shoppers, free raffles (thanks to the generosity of the community businesses), a concession stand, a bake sale, and free table space to the senior citizens of our area.

Crafters have signed up from many areas, such as Canada, Wayne, Westland, Belleville, Saline, Ann Arbor, South Lyon, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Warren,

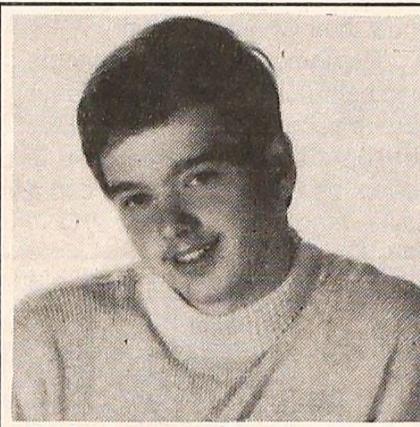
and, of course, Romulus. (Note: Limited space is still available for crafters; call Linda Norman at 941-4850 for more information.) Just as varied will be the choice of arts and crafts offered for sale to the public: Native American art, wood works, ceramics, sugar eggs, airbrush art, jewelry, dolls, stuffed animals, painted glass, neon and glass, wreaths, baskets, and mirrors are just a few of the wares that shoppers will be able to purchase.

If one could judge the success of an event by the enthusiasm, implementation of new ideas, dedication, and overall hard work of its sponsors, then this Arts and Crafts Fair should be an overwhelming success. This is an event for the whole family, so come out and join us! □



Just a few of the items which will be offered for sale.

## Two Area Youths Charged in Shooting Death



Chris Jones

By Kristi Stephens

Two young men have been arrested and charged in the February 22, 1994 shooting death of 21-year-old Christopher Jones of Romulus, according to Detective Sergeant Michael Ondejko of the Romulus Police Department.

Fifteen-year-old Nathan Younce of Taylor was bound over on one count of first-degree murder, one count of assault with intent to murder, and two felony firearm counts following his preliminary examination, which was conducted by Judge Henry Zabrowski of the 34th District Court on Wednesday, March 9. David Vipperman, a 17-year-old resident of Belleville, chose to waive his preliminary

examination, and has been bound over on an accessory to murder charge. Both young men have been charged as adults.

The incident - which occurred in the parking lot at the Romulus Adult Education facility located at 3900 Superior - took place around 9:10 or 9:15 p.m. Apparently, said Ondejko, Younce and Vipperman were at the Adult Education building to pick up Younce's sister, who was a student there. Jones, driving a van, was at the school to pick up his fiancée, Theresa McCarroll, another Adult Education student.

The trouble seems to have started after the two young women - already in their respective vehicles - exchanged unpleasant words across the parking lot. At that time, Police believe, Jones got out of his van carrying a baseball bat and began walking toward the other car, but dropped the bat and turned to run back to his van when Younce emerged from his car carrying a gun. Jones was shot in the back before he could get back into the van, and was pronounced dead at Annapolis Hospital within the hour.

Both Younce and Vipperman are now scheduled for arraignments on information - Vipperman on March 16; Younce on March 23. □

## Detroit Free Press Editor Visits Romulus Schools

By Brian Joseph Steffani

In an effort to make Romulus better known for its good qualities, a committee called City/School Image Improvement was recently formed. It is a community service group, all voluntary, composed of several students. The supervisor of the group is Noah "Pete" Bergeron.

One of the goals that the group had was to get Romulus schools into the Mega-League Conference, a sports league consisting of many surrounding school districts. For some reason, Romulus had been excluded for quite some time. Just recently, however, Romulus was accepted into the League after these students made several calls to those schools asking why Romulus wasn't allowed in.

Another goal of the group was to show other communities, through the media, that Romulus is a good place. As a part of making people aware of the community as something more than just

Metro Airport, the students are interviewing media personnel. After the interviews, they ask the people if they would like to tour Romulus schools. Joe Stroud, editor of the *Detroit Free Press*, was one of those interviewed, and he accepted the offer to visit us.

On the morning of Thursday, January 6, Mr. Stroud arrived at the Board Office. There, he met Brian Steffani, the student who interviewed him and coordinated the visit. He also met Scott Smith and Kristy Gibson, two other members of the group, as well as Pete Bergeron, Dr. William Bedell (Superintendent of Romulus Schools), and Wayne Krupin (Construction Manager for Barton Malow Construction). After the greetings and some talk about bad weather, Dr. Bedell spoke briefly about Romulus schools and what's been going on in the District.

After Dr. Bedell's introduction, Mr. Stroud was taken to Romulus Middle

*continued on page 2*

## Cory's Holiday Food Drive Benefited the Hungry

By Kristy N. Gibson, Romulus High School

The month of December was a time of giving to others, as Cory Elementary School students found out. Fifth-grade teacher Ms. Gilkey and the Student Council organized a canned food drive throughout the School for the month of December.

Each teacher collected canned food from his/her students. The classroom that collected the most canned food won a pizza party sponsored by the Student Council. Collecting started throughout the School on December 1, 1993.

Cory Elementary School staff and students collected 1,206 cans of canned food to give to the Helping Hand Thrift Shop in Romulus. The winning class-

room was Ms. Washington's fourth-grade class, with 350 cans.

Cory's canned food drive was coordinated by Romulus High School's Class of 1996. Class of '96 volunteers and Class Advisor Mrs. Kathy Abdo went to Cory Elementary to collect and distribute the canned foods to the Helping Hand Thrift Shop. Congratulations to Cory Elementary School's staff and students for an outstanding job in giving to others to show their Christmas spirit.

Remember that needy people don't stop being needy after the holidays; give to your school's canned food drive. Just as Cory School students gave to their school and community; you can give to yours. (see photo on page 9) □



Ms. Washington's fourth-grade class collected the most cans of food.



Ms. Gilkey and Class of '96 student Sereand Woodhall take a break from collecting cans to pose for a proud picture.

## EDITOR VISITS ROMULUS SCHOOLS

*continued from page 1*

School. There, he watched students using computers in the Lab 2000, the School's advanced computer room.

Next, he visited Wick Elementary School. Joann Bjork, media technician, explained and demonstrated the School's audio/visual equipment, which includes VCRs, laser disc players, and CD-interactive equipment. (All of this is used to aid teachers in their lessons.)

Mr. Stroud also saw a CAIC (Computer Aided Instruction Classroom) room. He observed several students working at their own pace on their assignments, using computers. He seemed to be impressed by the equipment and the students' familiarity with it.

The last stop for the group was Romulus High School. Mr. Stroud briefly met

with Tom Dolan (Principal) and Dan Hurst (Assistant Principal). He also met several teachers, including Bill Barnes, the High School's journalism teacher.

Mr. Stroud was shown the largest computer rooms in the school, all containing over 30 computers each. Those rooms included the English Lab, the Math Lab, and the Outcomes Writing Lab. Mr. Stroud was also shown the Foreign Language Lab.

Although the tour of the High School stressed technology, Mr. Stroud was also shown some of the new facilities. The Media Center and the Athletic Complex were two that he saw.

Overall, Mr. Stroud seemed very impressed by the steps the District is taking to improve education through modern technology. □

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**Please note:** All articles published under the by-line of Evelyn H. Atkins are written in the format of an editorial, and are the sole responsibility and opinion of Evelyn H. Atkins, the Editor of *The Romulus News*.

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## Community Calendar

- VOTES Meeting** – VOTES (Voice of Taxpayers for Efficient Spending), an organization of Romulus residents dedicated to enhancing the value of our tax dollar by holding City government officials accountable for spending, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. Items to be discussed will include the possibility of gambling coming to Romulus; the City budget, especially the General Fund; a number of lawsuits in which the City is currently involved, including the suit against Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc.; other environmental issues, such as above-ground dump sites; future opportunities for business; and real estate values. Everyone is invited. For further information, please call Dolores Witzgall, chairperson (942-0002), or Janice Coulson, secretary (941-6101).
- Preschool Story Time at the Library** – The Romulus Public Library, presently located in the gym of the Mt. Pleasant Elementary School (39000 Superior, Romulus), has begun taking registrations for a six-week Preschool Story Time program for children between the ages of three and five who are not yet in kindergarten. Parents can choose either the Tuesday evening sessions, which begin at 7 p.m., or the Thursday morning sessions, which begin at 10:30 a.m. The program will begin the week of March 13 and end the week of April 15. Call 941-7369 to reserve space for your child.
- In Celebration of the Art of the One-act Play** – The Huron Civic Theatre will present an evening of four one-act plays – entitled *One Act at a Time* – at the Huron Civic Auditorium (32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston) on Saturday, March 26, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 27, at 3 p.m. The Theatre's trio of talented directors – Jim Rollet, Belinda Sidebottom, and Amy Armstrong – have chosen very diverse pieces to create an evening of entertainment that should please everyone's tastes. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$3 for students/senior citizens. For more information, call 782-5380.
- Project Health-O-Rama** – Annapolis Hospital and Project Health-O-Rama are teaming up once again to provide health screenings, tests, and counseling services to detect health problems early. Free health screenings at the event – to be held at Westland Mall (corner of Wayne and Warren roads) from Tuesday, March 22, through Friday, March 25 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily) – will include a blood-pressure check, height/weight measurement, hearing test, glaucoma screening, and breathing test (pulmonary function evaluation), as well as nutrition and medication counseling. Other tests will include a \$4 colorectal cancer screening kit; a \$15 blood panel test (requires a four-hour fast, but please continue to take any medication); and a \$25 prostate specific antigen (a blood test). All tests are performed by health professionals. You must be at least 18 years old to participate. Call 467-4134 for more information.
- St. Aloysius Catholic School Registration** – St. Aloysius will continue its new family registration for the 1994–1995 school year through Friday, March 11. A full curriculum is offered in grades kindergarten through eight. All teachers are certified by the State of Michigan. For further information, please call 941-3340.
- Chamber's 14th Annual Awards Banquet** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's 14th Annual Awards Banquet, honoring "Person of the Year" recipient Florence Klein for her outstanding volunteer service to the Romulus community, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 25, at the Clarion Inn (Romulus). Donation is \$30 per person, payable to the Romulus Chamber (located at 31200 Industrial Highway) by March 11. For further information please call the Chamber (326-4290).

To place information in the Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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## Letters to the Editor

*Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.*

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

### Accident Victim Questions Judge's Sense of Justice

After reading your front-page article on the Honorable Felix Rogalle, Chief Judge of the 34th District Court, I was a little upset with the favoritism you displayed toward him, and I just had to write this letter, if for no other reason than to release some of the anger that I have toward our judge.

In one paragraph, your article stated, "Rogalle has also been active in helping with the current drunk-driving problem, assisting in victim panels, therapy, and counseling in an attempt to lessen the tide of drunken drivers within our communities." I was surprised to find out through your paper that there is such a panel, since I was, and still am, a victim of a drunk driver, but was unaware of its existence.

Now let me tell you about my case.

I was the victim of an accident which occurred on December 11, 1992. As a result of that accident, I sustained closed head injuries and eye damage, and suffer from clinical seizures. I have had to undergo two surgeries, and will have to take medication for the rest of my life.

When the person who caused all my injuries was arrested, she was found to have a 20% blood alcohol level.

Even though I was the victim in the case, I was never notified when this woman went to trial. After I was able to move around, I went to the Court to find out when the Court date was to be. Imagine my surprise when I learned that this person had already been tried – and had received as her punishment only a one-year restriction on her license, three days of community duty, and a total of \$1,175 in fines, including bail. Can you

see why I'm so upset?

Where is the fairness of our judicial system? Is it for the victim or for the criminal?

I was also upset by the fact that, when I went to release my car after the accident, I saw the car that had hit me – and in that car was marijuana. Yet this person was never charged for that, and the police report was not even correct.

I don't feel that the police department did their job correctly; nor do I feel that the sentence fit the crime.

I vividly remember that night, just as if it were yesterday. I did write our good Judge Rogalle about how I felt. I even had a meeting with him. I told him my feeling that, when there is a victim, that victim should be present at the trial, but he said he didn't feel that was necessary.

Well, I do – mainly because maybe, just maybe, the drunk drivers would have to pay just as the victim has paid.

Yes, you're probably saying that I am just another nut complaining. Well, actually, I really am not a nut; I'm just a person who is suffering every day. I feel that there has been an injustice done here, and it has been done to me.

As far as I'm concerned, Judge Rogalle does not deserve the position that he holds.

Michele R. Winn  
Romulus □

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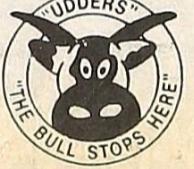
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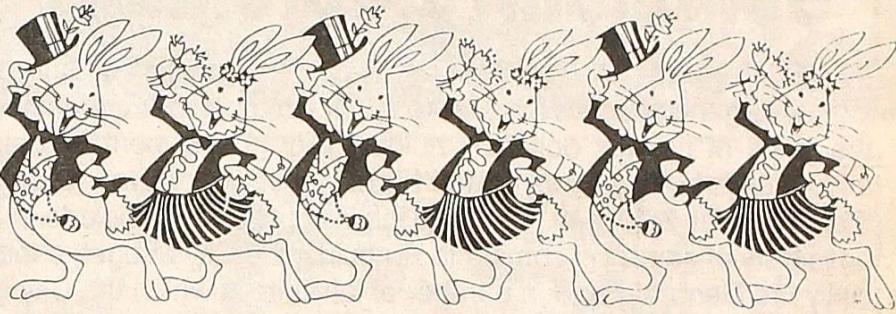
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# Romulus Profile: Robert Brown



By Tom Shamanski

On February 23, 1994, the Romulus Police Department's Lieutenant Robert Brown was appointed as the City's chief of police by Mayor Beverly McAnally. A large, imposing, yet engagingly amicable man, Brown has a "100% commitment" to the Police Department and the City, and is honestly grateful for the support he has received from various people.

"I'm not solely responsible for the fact that I'm sitting here (in the Chief's office)," said the 39-year-old Brownstown Township resident. "I owe a lot to several people who are also deserving of special recognition. I owe much to my wife and children, my parents, my co-workers here at the Department, the residents of Romulus, and several others within the City government."

In 1973, the Dowagiac, Michigan-born Brown began to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and continued to take courses at various State community colleges over the next several years. Later, in 1987, Brown enrolled in Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

"Although the School was run by Northwestern (in Illinois)," explained the Chief, "its program was also offered periodically at Eastern (Michigan University in Ypsilanti). It was during one of those times that I took the course. When I graduated, I was awarded a certificate of completion in Management School for Law Enforcement People."

Actually, Brown's law-enforcement career began in 1974 — some 13 years prior to his graduation from Northwestern's police school — when he took a position on the Michigan State Police force. After serving at State Police posts

in Paw Paw, Flat Rock, and Detroit, Brown received a medical discharge from the State law-enforcement agency in 1980.

"My knees had been bad from playing sports in high school," said Brown. "They were injured again one day when I was wrestling with a kid who had been sniffing glue. Finally, in 1978, I had to have surgery done on them."

The operation was obviously successful as, in 1981, Brown resumed his law-enforcement career when he joined the City of Romulus' police department. After coming aboard as a patrol officer that year, Brown was elevated to the rank of sergeant in 1984. Three short years later, he achieved the grade of lieutenant, which he maintained until his recent appointment as Chief.

When asked to list goals to which he will aspire as Chief, Brown replied, "First, I'm proud as can be of our department, and I think our organization is something that the rest of our community can take pride in, too — but there's always room for improvement.

"I plan to emphasize continuing education within the Department, as well as cooperation with the City, the Schools, the neighborhoods, and other law-enforcement agencies."

Brown then spoke of several other goals, many of which would involve the upgrading of standard, and familiar, police work. However, the Chief also listed goals which would seldom be regarded as being within the framework of routine law enforcement.

"We want to function as a liaison between our residents and any social agencies whose services would be available to them," said Brown. "Also, when no other agency can deliver various com-

munity services, we want to be able to do that, too."

Finally, Brown said that he also wishes to put together a community-oriented police pilot project.

When asked to comment on police work in general, Brown said, "The most difficult call is for a domestic dispute; you never know what you'll be walking into. By the time the call comes in, things have been simmering for a long time." Normally, Brown added, police cars are manned by either one or two officers; however, for a domestic-dispute situation, at least two patrol officers will answer the call.

Brown then went on to describe an even more difficult situation often faced by police officers.

"By far," he said, "the hardest thing we have to do is go to a home and tell a person that a loved one has died unexpectedly. This is especially true with children and young adults."

Ironically, considering the hazards faced by police officers, an almost universal complaint about their job seems to involve what is probably its most mundane task: paperwork.

"When a TV police program ends," Brown said, "it doesn't show the three hours of paperwork that has to be done afterward."

In 1986, the Department first installed a computer system to help cut back on the necessary pencil-pushing, but a great deal remained to be done manually. A computerized program called Computer-Aided Dispatch, which the Department began using in 1989, has made further inroads into the paperwork problem.

For instance, the program has eliminated the need for a typewritten radio-log for each police call. With the dispatch program, the officer(s) responding to a call are given, first, the closest cross-streets to the area in question and, second, the nearest fire-hydrant location. In addition, the program can inform officers as to any other "calls for service," as well as other pertinent information.

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In 1986, Brown became a member of the Wayne County Corporals, Sergeants, and Lieutenants Association. The following year, he joined the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. Recently, Brown has applied for membership in the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Brown is married to JoAnn, a full-time dispatcher for the Brownstown Township Police Department. The couple has two children. Eighteen-year-old Jason is in the United States Air Force, and is currently stationed at Shepard Air Force Base in Texas. Working in aircraft electronics, Jason is considering the possibility of pursuing a career in the Service. Jessica, age nine, enjoys swimming and gymnastic classes, said Dad.

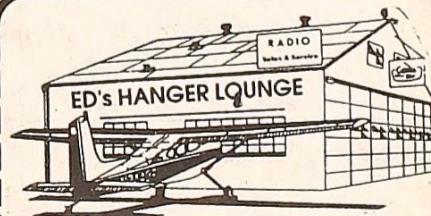
When he's not fighting crime, Brown likes swimming, doing yard-work, and golfing. With regard to the latter, the Chief calls himself "a terrible golfer" who has room for "an extreme amount of improvement!"

The Browns enjoy spending time with their children. They firmly believe in the old adage: "It's not the quantity of time spent that's important, but the quality of time."

When queried, at the close of the interview, as to why he enjoys his new position as the Chief of the Romulus Police Department, Brown replied, "I like it because of the people I work with inside this organization. Every one of them is valuable to the City. They're dedicated public servants, and they do a great job."

"Also," he concluded, "being Chief gives me a chance to have an impact on the quality of life within the community."

And because Romulus Chief of Police Robert Brown brings an open honesty and sense of compassion to his new post, the people of Romulus will surely come to appreciate his efforts on their behalf. □



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# Understanding the Funding Plans

	<b>PROPOSAL "A"</b>	<b>STATUTORY PLAN</b>
<b>Basic Foundation Grant to Local Schools</b>	\$5,000 per pupil (\$4,200 the first year for lower-spending districts, growing to \$5,000 within five years, foundation grant indexed. Districts wanting to spend more than \$6,500 per pupil may levy extra millage exclusively on homesteads up to 18 mills, then against all property). Romulus will need to levy approximately 14.5 total mills on homesteads to achieve its current per-pupil spending plus 2% (estimated \$6,763).	\$5,000 per pupil (\$4,200 the first year for lower-spending districts, growing to \$5,000 within five years, foundation grant indexed. Districts wanting to spend more than \$6,500 per pupil may levy extra millage against all property). Romulus will need to levy approximately 13.93 total mills on homesteads to achieve its current per-pupil spending plus 2% (estimated \$6,763).
<b>1994-95 School Aid &amp; Budget</b>	\$10.205 billion.	\$10.205 billion.
<b>Sales/Use Tax</b>	Increases from 4% to 6%. (Residential energy utilities are exempt from the increase and would be taxed at 4%). <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>	No increase.
<b>Income Tax</b>	Rate decreases from 4.6% to 4.4%. <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>	Rate increases from 4.6% to 6%. <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>
<b>Personal Exemption</b>	The personal exemption remains at \$2,100. Seniors remain at \$3,000.	The personal exemption increases from \$2,100 to \$3,000. Seniors increase to \$3,900.
<b>Homestead Credit</b>	20% of rent paid is considered property taxes. (Currently 17%).	20% of rent paid is considered property taxes. (Currently 17%).
<b>Property Taxes Levied for School Operations in 1994</b>	Estimated 14.5 mills on homesteads* in Romulus. 24 mills on nonhomesteads. <b>Begins 1994 summer tax bill.</b>  *Homesteads are defined as the principle residence of the owner and, in the case of agriculture, certain farmland.	Estimated 13.93 mills on homesteads* in Romulus. 24 mills on nonhomesteads. <b>Begins 1994 summer tax bill.</b>  *Homesteads are defined as the principle residence of the owner and, in the case of agriculture, certain contiguous and adjacent farmland.
<b>Enhancement Millage (Subject to Voter Approval)</b>	Local districts may seek voter approval for up to three mills through 1996. Only intermediate school districts (ISDs) may seek voter approval for up to three enhancement mills after 1996.	A local district or intermediate school district (ISD) may seek voter approval for enhancement millage within a specified limit beginning in 1994. Revenue would be shared on a per-pupil basis with districts in the ISD that have such a levy.
<b>Property Tax Assessments</b>	Assessment increases, excluding new construction, are capped at 5% or inflation, whichever is less, until ownership of the property is transferred. <b>Begins in 1995.</b>	No change.
<b>Single Business Tax</b>	No increase.	Rate increases from 2.35% to 2.75%. <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>
<b>Tobacco Products Tax</b>	Cigarette tax increases by 50 cents per pack with 6% for public health programs and creates a new tax on non-cigarette tobacco products at 16% of the wholesale price. <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>	Cigarette tax increases by 15 cents per pack and creates a new tax on noncigarette tobacco products at 16% of the wholesale price. <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>
<b>Interstate Telephone Tax</b>	Subjects interstate calls to the increased use tax of 6%. "800 numbers" and WATS lines are exempt. <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>	Subjects interstate and international calls to the use tax rate of 4%. <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>
<b>Real Estate Transfer Tax</b>	A new State revenue stamp will be required for all property transfers (\$10 for every \$500 of sales price or fraction thereof). <b>Begins January 1, 1995.</b>	A new State revenue stamp will be required for all property transfers (\$5 for every \$500 of sales price or fraction thereof). <b>Begins May 1, 1994.</b>
<b>Keno Lottery Game</b>	Estimated \$100 million in revenue from the new Bureau of Lottery game.	Not included.
<b>Est. Reductions to Gen. Fund</b>	About \$500 million.	About \$330 million.

# Local Commentary

## Representative Pitoniak Tells Voters: "It's Time To Let Your Voice Be Heard"



Representative Greg Pitoniak

*(Editor's note: The purpose of the "Local Commentary" column is to provide members of the Romulus community with an opportunity to express their viewpoint on issues of interest to the people who live and do business here. Responsible spokespersons are invited to make use of this column at any time. Views expressed in "Local Commentary" are not necessarily those of "the little paper."*

As your state representative, I have, in the last several months, done much listening, studying, talking, and voting on the issue of property tax relief and school finance reform. Though I hope that my efforts on your behalf at least partially reflect your wishes, you now have a specific opportunity to directly affect the outcome of this long debate. If you are a registered voter, please be sure to let your voice be heard in the special election on Proposal A next Tuesday, March 15.

Based upon the number of inquiries that I have been receiving on this election, it is clear to me that many of my constituents are concerned and confused. I am not surprised. The formal campaigns both for and against Proposal A have offered very little meaningful information and have resorted to scare tactics, half-truths, and sound bites. This is unfortunate because the issue is one of great importance and complexity, and could have been served well if substantive campaigns had been undertaken by both sides. As I have done in a previous *Romulus News* column, let me offer my view of which plan I think is best.

As you may already know, the Michigan Legislature recently accomplished major legislative reforms of our public school system that will result in improve-

ments in education quality, achieve greater fairness in taxation and education spending, and reduce our dependence upon the property tax to fund public schools. Adjoining this column to the left is a chart which provides a point-by-point comparison of the major components of the two plans for financing education reform; the statutory plan will be effective unless a majority of the voters cast their ballot in favor of Proposal A on March 15. I believe both plans provide a superior alternative to the current system of using the property tax to substantially fund public schools in Michigan. For the 1994-1995 school year, both plans establish the same funding level for Romulus Schools equal to their current per-pupil spending plus an approximate 2.4% increase. Beyond next year, the amount of growth in funding is based upon a formula linked to the growth in revenue derived from the taxes which make up each plan. Despite the "full-funding" feature of both plans, I am concerned about how Proposal A may affect long-term school-funding prospects, the financial health of Romulus City and Wayne County governments, the overall Michigan economy, and the taxpayers of Romulus.

Proposal A would provide schools with a less stable revenue source due to the cap on assessment growth and its reliance on the sales tax, which has been a declining revenue source because of our continuing shift to a service economy. The balance of revenue sources under Proposal A provide no assurances of stability: a major increase in the cigarette tax, which has dramatically declined as a revenue source as the number of smokers has dropped, and also counting on a highly speculative \$100 million from a vaguely defined new keno gambling operation.

A serious concern that I have about Proposal A pertains to its impact upon the fiscal condition of the General Fund Budget of the State of Michigan and the budgets of counties, cities, and townships responsible for funding many essential services. The House Fiscal Agency projects that Proposal A will result in a \$316-million-lower year-end balance for the State's general fund for the 1994-1995 fiscal year than the statutory plan. The assessment cap will reduce future school revenues, as well as reduce future revenues for the City of Romulus and the County of Wayne, whose budgets have already been targeted by Governor Engler for cuts in revenue-sharing.

Governor Engler has been using a "scare tactic" with the voting public to get their support for Proposal A by claiming that the statutory plan would be a "disaster" for the Michigan economy. Let's assess that issue more carefully. Yes, the

*continued on page 10*

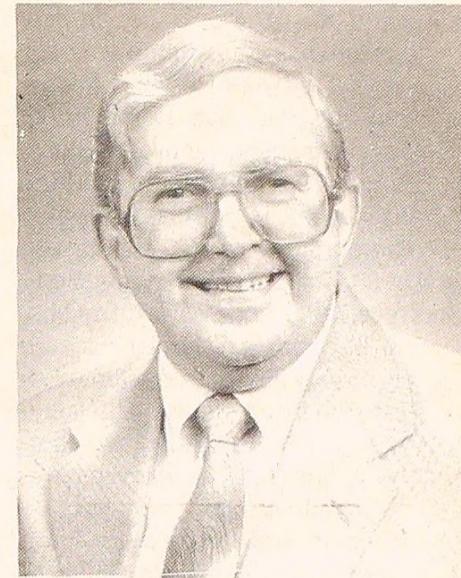
## Proposed Finance Plans Won't Eliminate Need for Millage Elections

*By Art McPharlin, Assistant to the Superintendent, Romulus Schools*

Publicity about legislative school finance reform proposals has many taxpayers believing that school districts will no longer need to hold millage elections; however, nothing could be further from reality.

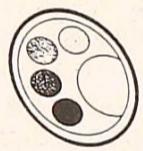
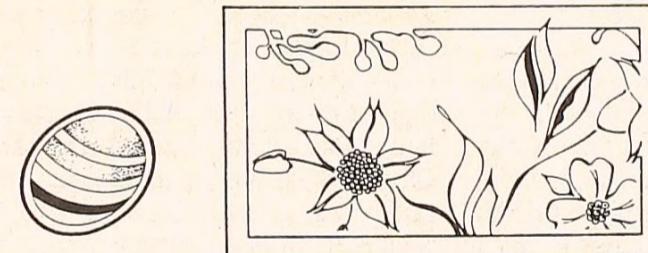
The new school finance plans actually reinstate school property taxes and mandate local elections to secure voter permission to collect those taxes. The major issue to be determined by voters on Tuesday, March 15, is whether school millages will be bolstered by a higher State sales tax or a higher State income tax. Regardless of the outcome on March 15, schools will still need to receive voter approval of property-tax levies to qualify for State funds to maintain current programs. On the bright side, while voter approval will be necessary, there will be considerably fewer mills involved.

Besides addressing the income-tax or sales-tax question, the March 15 election will establish whether districts must have at least 12 local school operating mills on all property (if the ballot proposal fails) or 18 school operating mills on nonhomestead property (if it passes). Both types of levies must be approved by local voters.



Although existing levies can apply until they expire, and allocated mills can be used to partially cover the 12-mill requirement under the statutory plan, local approved school operating taxes are a must under either version of the new school funding scheme.

The point to be made is that voters in local and intermediate school districts throughout the State of Michigan should not be surprised when they find that school districts are still holding millage elections to keep their doors open. The fact is, voting millage is neither a district's choice nor its desire. It is a necessity. □



## Announcing the SPRING CRAFT SHOW

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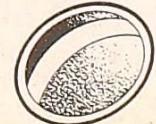
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# Middle School Students Win All-time Record 161 Medals

By Richard Kruse, Music Department Director, Romulus Community Schools

Over 100 different Romulus Middle School students participated in the District XII Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 19. Parents went with their children to Livonia High School to watch as 54 different students in 27 events won a total of 68 First-Division medals. Forty events received Second-Division ratings, including 93 medals. Director Richard Kruse and Principal Andrea Williams wish to congratulate the students on their fine efforts and accomplishments, and commend the parents for their involvement.

First Division groups: Redentor Deleon and Victor Lucaj (snare drum duet); Signora Armstrong and Beccy Oleszkowicz (trombone duet); Emma Parker and Leslie Slone (oboe and bassoon duet); Justin Joiner, Erin Cameron, and Alfred Chadwick (cornet trio); Beccy Marz, Jennifer Kelly, and Nancy Wilson (cornet trio); Geoffrey Donaldson and Jeremy Evitts (cornet duet); Roger Marion, Amber Bradley, and Brandie Welch (clarinet trio); Natalie Griffith and Shawn Neil (cornet duet); Erin Jones, Brea Flores, and Derek Plave (cornet trio); Nicole Moue, Carissa Slone, and Tomeka Bowles (flute trio); Carissa Slone and Nicole Moue (flute duet); Mark Batie and Topaz Sledd (trombone duet); Beccy Oleszkowicz (trombone solo); Shannon Herauf and Jessica Colman (flute duet); Dezzer Freeman, Billy Chapman, Tonice Gilkey, and Renee Ervin (clarinet quartet); Sonya Hill and Naomi Whalen (cornet duet); Billy Chapman and Verlinn McGowan (clarinet duet); April Morones, Megan Gilliland, and Kathy Rangel (clarinet duet); Antonio Gibson, Amber Long, Chad Green, and Reggie Williams (sax quartet); Shannon Herauf, Jessica Colman, and Tina Blake (flute trio); Amber Bradley and Roger Marion (clarinet duet); Natalie Griffith, Shawn Neil, and Greg Scott (cornet trio); Tonice Gilkey and Verlinn McGowan (clarinet duet); Randy Olson, Mathew Hardt, and Joshua Farr (baritone trio); Tim Collins, Damien Crawford, and Sylvester Bruckner (tuba trio); Shannon Dennis and Dolores Hearst (flute duet); and Topaz Sledd, Signora Armstrong, and Alex Hance (trombone trio).

Second Division events were: Beccy Marz and Sonja Hill (cornet duet); Daryl Delaney, Ken Wells, and Randy White (sax trio); Victoria Betty, Carleton McCauley, and Krystal Johnson (clarinet trio); Harvey Flake and Tenisha Willis (clarinet duet); Antonio Gibson, Chad Green, and Reggie Williams (sax trio); Cherise Phillips, Charla Seibert, and Erin Fisher (French horn trio); Kamika Moore and Tolima Pacheco (cornet duet); Scott Tieppo and David Gentry (cornet duet); Matt Gibbons and Greg Scott (cornet duet); Amanda Williams, Nicole McKinney, and Amber Long (sax trio); Dolores Hearst, Shannon Dennis, and Nicki O'Dell (flute trio); Jennifer Evensen and Charla Seibert (French horn duet); Nicki O'Dell and Mandy Welch (flute duet); Charise Phillips and Erin Fisher (French horn duet); Randy Olson and Mathew Hardt (baritone duet); Quan Lee and Geoffrey Donaldson (cornet and baritone duet); Tina Blake and Tomeka Bowles (flute duet); Cherise Phillips, Charla Seibert, and Jennifer Evensen (French horn trio); Ken Wells and Daryl Delaney (alto sax duet); Natalie Bourne and Lance McCroan (tuba duet); Brandy Clark and Alex Hance (trombone duet); Scott Tieppo, David Gentry, and Matt Gibbons (cornet trio); Latina Williams and Nicki O'Dell (flute duet); Mark Batie, Bupe Mulenga, and Patreece Giles (trombone trio); Nancy Wilson and Jennifer Kelly (cornet duet); Dezzer Freeman, Carleton McCauley, Krystal Johnson, and Victoria Betty (clarinet quartet); Amanda Williams and Nicole McKinney (sax duet); Richard Tripp and Steve Scibilia (cornet duet); Sharon Hill and Tolima Pacheco (cornet duet); Bupe Mulenga and Patreece Giles (trombone duet); Lance McCroan, Natalie Bourne, and Joshua Crieth (tuba trio); Damien Crawford and Tim Collins (tuba duet); Nancy Wilson and Sarah Weinschenk (cornet duet); Tracy Atherton, Heather Goniea, and Holly Holloway (clarinet trio); Matthew Carter and Robert Boykins (clarinet duet); Tracy Atherton and Heather Goniea (clarinet duet); Kathy Rangel and Megan Gilliland (clarinet duet); April Morones and Holly Holloway (clarinet duet); Phillip Love and Joshua Creith (tuba duet); Brandy Clark and Christa Anderson (trombone duet).



(L-R) April Morones, Kathy Rangel, and Megan Gilliland



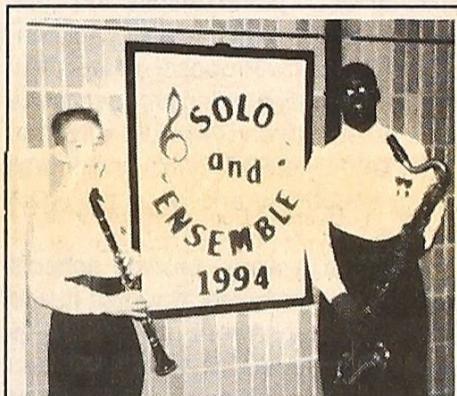
(L-R) Tina Blake, Shannon Herauf, and Jessica Colman



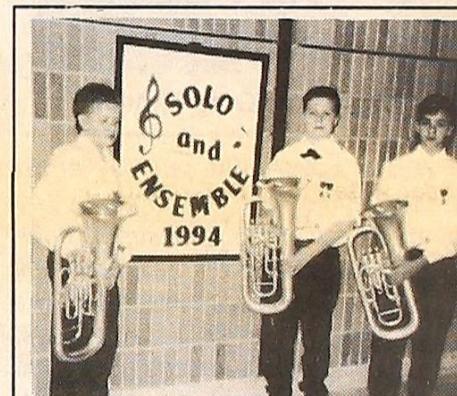
(L-R) Beccy Oleszkowicz and Signora Armstrong



(L-R) Tonice Gilkey and Verlinn McGowan



(L-R) Billy Chapman and Verlinn McGowan



(L-R) Mathew Hardt, Randy Olson, and Joshua Farr



(L-R) Mark Batie and Topaz Sledd



Beccy Oleszkowicz



(L-R) Sylvester Bruckner, Damien Crawford, and Tim Collins



(L-R) Erin Jones and Brea Flores

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Jenny, & Kooch**

## ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 14, 1994

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held Monday, February 14, 1994, was called to order by President Kesner at 7:30 P.M.

Roll call showed all Members present. Administrator Carr was absent (excused).

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Kesner.

### Approval of Agenda:

2/94/1 Moved by Wilkerson supported by Hoffman the Agenda be approved as submitted by Dr. Bedell. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

2/94/2 Moved by Berlinn supported by King the Board approve the Minutes of January 24, 1994, as submitted. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Abstain: 1 (Hoffman). Motion carried.

### Communications and Expressions from the Public:

There were no communications and expressions from the public this evening.

### Report of the Superintendent:

#### Personnel Actions

Dr. LeCesne recommended the following Personnel Actions for Board approval:

**A. Employment:** Jeffrey Uhrig – Tech. Aide, Sr. High (Prob.), Eff. 1/31/94.

2/94/3 Moved by Wilkerson supported by King the Board approve the Personnel Actions as recommended by Dr. LeCesne. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### Addendum – Field Trip – NJROTC

2/94/4 Moved by Berlinn supported by Patterson the Board of Education authorize NJROTC cadets to attend a Mini-Boot Camp at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois, from April 17, 1994, to April 23, 1994. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### Bills for Payment

2/94/5 Moved by Patterson supported by King the Board approve the Bills for Payment as recommended by Administrator Carr. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### Presentation – EDS on Education

Mr. Vincent Schager gave the EDS on Education Presentation to Board Members. Board Members had many questions for Mr. Schager.

### Barton Malow – Change Orders

2/94/6 Moved by Patterson supported by Hoffman the Board approve all change orders with one motion. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

2/94/7 Moved by Patterson supported by Hoffman the Board of Education issue the following Change Orders: Alpha Electric, Electronic Security Systems, Gee Corporation, Great Lakes Mechanical, McFadden Corporation, McMurray Electric, Michigan Bell, Peterson Glass Co., Prudential Paint & Cleaning, Stafford-Smith, Inc., and York International. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### MEAP Academy Proposal

2/94/8 Moved by Wilkerson supported by Patterson the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the allocation of up to \$7,600 for MEAP Academy activity. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### MEGA League Acceptance

The Board acknowledged receipt of the information concerning Romulus's acceptance into the MEGA Conference.

### Josten's Training Extension

2/94/9 Moved by Patterson supported by Wilkerson the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve an amount not to exceed \$40,000 to be charged 1/2 to 1993–1994 and 1994–1995 for extension of the Josten trainer time. Ayes: 6. Nays: 1 (Hoffman). Motion carried.

### Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Dr. Bedell discussed the following Items of Interest with Board Members: 1) Finance Minutes; 2) SADD Show; 3) NCA Deviations Letter; 4) WCCC Dean Resignation; 5) NCA Presentation – Bedell; 6) Letter of Praise – Dolan to Hurst; 7) Project Manager's Report; and 8) Proposed Ballot Language.

### Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Member King: North Central – French and Spanish.

Member Hoffman: Miscommunication about snow day – need 50% attendance.

Member Hoffman: DARE graduation was held for 6th graders.

Member Berlinn: Have we inventoried computers at Sr. High?

Member Langley: Are we monitoring where items are?

Member Langley: Brief report about WCASB legislative update.

Member King: WCASB meeting – questioned about Comp. Ed. and ballot legislation.

### Executive Session – Litigation – Tom Schwarze

This item was cancelled.

### Adjournment:

2/94/11 Moved by Patterson supported by Hoffman the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra F. Langley, Secretary, Romulus Board of Education

## RHS "Student of the Month" Program Rewards Excellence

By Daniel Hurst, Assistant Principal, Romulus High School

A total of 143 Romulus High School students earned "Student of the Month" honors during the 1993–1994 school year's months of November, December, and January. These students – selected by their respective teachers for excelling behaviorally and academically – were honored in brief ceremonies to which they and their parents were invited. Students attending the recognition ceremonies received a certificate of achievement and, thanks to local sponsors, a \$50 United States savings bond.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the following students for their achievements and thank the following bond sponsors for being our partners in education.

### November Students of the Month

Chad Barnes, Petrina Bell, Carly Brown, Kesha Chandler, Genea Cleveland, Candice Coak, Nathan Crist, Jessica Cullen, Lisa Decker (Athlete of the Month), Sean Dick, Donald Drozd, James Erquhart, Christopher Flores, Katrina Gomes, Tamika Griffeth, Sandra Hall, Larry Jackson, Josiah Joiner, Robert Lazere, Melveia Lindsey, Tyrone Lipford, James Loftis, Tracie Lumpkin, Jason Mansfield, Jamal McCain, Danny McCartt, Jeffrey McCray, Michael McEntaffer, Kenneth McLaughlin, Kalani Mitchell, Lemas Mitchell, Mandi Onufer, Denise Quiroz, Anthony Reed, Najla Sharrief, Nycol Shepherd, Calvin Sibert, Michelle Slawinski, Renee Smiegel, Adam Smith, Daman Stevens, Jeff Taylor, Becky Testa, Damon Thomas, Jeffrey Wilkinson, Burton Winnard, Serena Woodall, and Nicole Wright.

### December Students of the Month

Adrienne Anderson, Danielle Banks, Sarah Barbara, Deanna Bishop, Carlin Blanton, Tracy Blizman, Jason Chmura, Stefanie Clemons, Rachel DeLeon, Jason Dew, Jacob Emerick, Tiffany Faison, Allethea Greene, Erin Habitz, Maurice Hatcher, Telisha Higgins, Tyrone Jones, Anida Keller, Heather Krey, Steven Lane, Myra Lockhart, Tramia London, Glenn Longre, Radley Manson, Danny McCartt, Kenneth McLaughlin, John Miller, Monique Moore, Christina Moreno, Wendy

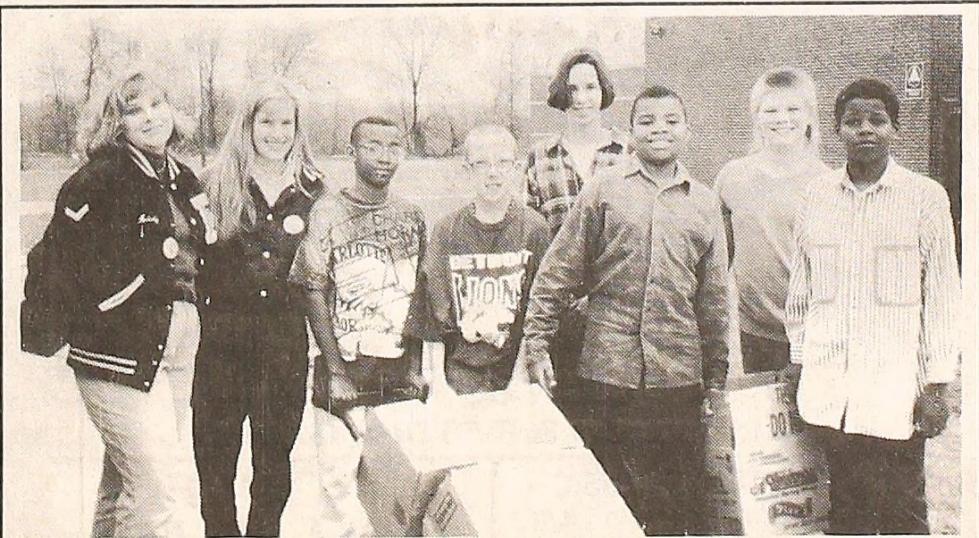
Newton, Alan Raphael, Christopher Reed, Jennifer Sands, Najla Sharrief, Latanya Shelton, Michelle Slawinski, Scott Smith, Sheila Sobocinski, Angel Socha, Shannon Stewart, Jamie Taylor, Letty Taylor, Becky Testa, William Thomas, Christina Vanderlugt, Matilda Wilk, Minnie Wilkins, LaShona Williams, LaJuan Wilson (Athlete of the Month), and Holly Wright.

### January Students of the Month

Rosemary Arquette, Meredith Avery, Chad Barnes, Kristin Bishop, Kimberly Bolus, Nicole Boslet, Leisha Bryant, Gary Carpenter, Melissa Chmura, Candice Coak, Nathan Devine, Mary Dugan, Ricky Finley, Danielle Franklin, Julie Golden, Michele Hamilton, Aubrey Hance, Gary Harris, Ryan Hicks, LaToya Holmes, Edward Horton, Michael Humphrey, Lisa Hurley, Tiffany Kerekes, Kevin Ladach (Athlete of the Month), Steven Lane, Tina Lester, Nickey Melchor, John Miller, Steven O'Connor, Tiffany Piggee, Joseph Rainey, Ganiece Rawls, Erin Reinhackel, Jawan Russell, Ebony Sandusky, Anjail Sharrief, Rebecca Shelby, Scott Smith, Christina Sprinkle, Brian Steffani, William Timmerman, Tiffany Vargo, Shalina Warren, and Jonathan Williams.

### Bond Sponsors

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RHS Class of '96 students Kristy Gibson, Angela Terry, and Kim Bolus work together with Cory students to collect food for the needy for the holidays.

## PITONIAK: LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

*continued from page 7*

statutory plan has an increase in the single-business tax rate not found in Proposal A, but every single analysis that I have seen thus far states emphatically that business taxpayers will pay more in taxes under Proposal A than they will under the statutory plan. Even the Republican-controlled State Senate's own fiscal agency came to this same conclusion. Furthermore, it is estimated that Proposal A will cause over \$300 million to be lost from the Michigan economy to the Federal government due to the loss of deductibility. These are the facts that the proponents of Proposal A ought to attempt to counter with empirical data, not just vague slogans.

Last, and most importantly, we need to consider the impact of both plans on Romulus and all Michigan taxpayers. How much of the two-cents sales-tax increase will be paid by "out-of-Staters"? Only three percent, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury; that is only \$54 million of the total of \$1.8 billion expected to be derived annually from the sales-tax increase. It is true that, under the statutory plan, Michigan would have the highest flat-rate income tax in the country – of the seven states with such a tax. But 33 states would have income-tax rates higher than Michigan's, including some states with rates as high as 12%. Proposal A is more unfair to low- and middle-income taxpayers. Even with the exemption of food and prescription drugs, the Michigan sales tax is regressive: the lower one's income, the greater the percentage of income spent on taxable items. Let's not forget the loss of deductibility; more than half of Michigan homeowners itemize their deductions. Fully 60% of all property taxes paid in Michigan are itemized on Federal returns.

There are, of course, advantages

and disadvantages to both of these plans for you as a taxpayer, and their impact on you depends on dozens of factors, including your income, the value of your home, your family size, how much you spend, whether or not you smoke, etc. Generally speaking, most Romulus homeowners should experience an overall tax decrease under either plan, since the operating millage for Romulus schools will be reduced by at least 30 mills under both plans. Specifically, homeowners in the Romulus school district will see their current school operating mills of 44.82 decrease to an estimated 13.93 mills under the statutory plan and to an estimated 14.50 mills under Proposal A. This assumes that Romulus Schools wish to maintain their current level of spending plus the estimated 2.4% increase permitted under both plans.

I believe that the statutory plan is fairer to taxpayers, schools, businesses, and local governments. I urge you to help inform your family, friends, and co-workers of the good reasons to cast a "no" vote on Proposal A on March 15.

Gregory Pitoniak  
State Representative  
District 22

(Editor's note: Romulus voters who would like to hear a more in-depth discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of Proposal A and the Legislature's statutory plan may attend the next meeting of the Romulus City Council on Monday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Romulus City Hall. Representative Gregory Pitoniak will be present at the meeting to brief the Council, other City officials, and the audience about how each alternative will affect the City of Romulus, Romulus schools, and the average Romulus taxpayer, and to answer any questions or concerns.) □

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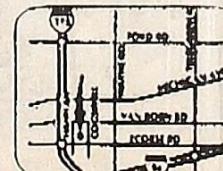
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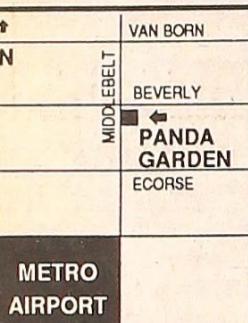
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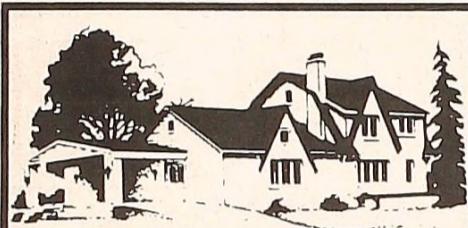
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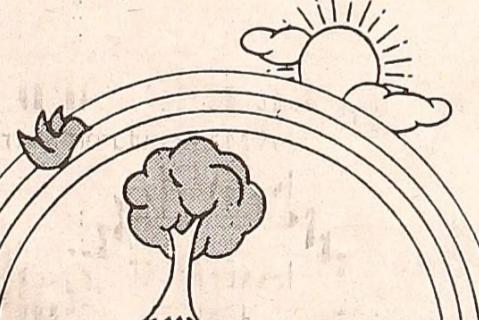
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# The Stork Arrived

## Erin Marie Landstrom

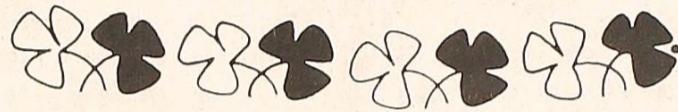
Proudly announcing the birth of their new daughter, Erin Marie Landstrom, are Kenneth and Deborah Landstrom.

Erin was born in Annapolis Hospital (Wayne, MI) at 1:35 p.m. on Monday, February 14, 1994. At birth, she weighed seven pounds, six ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Especially excited about Erin's arrival were her big brothers, Kenneth and Sean Landstrom.

Erin's grandparents are Frank and Mary Landstrom and Janet Coalson.

John and Lynn Wallace are her Godparents. □



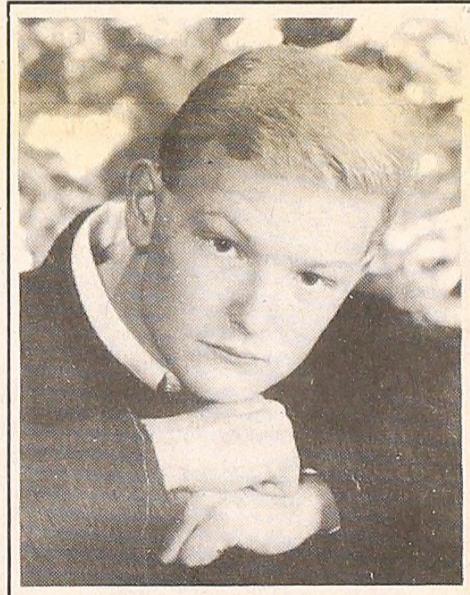
# Congratulations!

**Lloyd Varner**

Congratulations to Lloyd Varner, who has just been accepted into the occupational therapy program at Eastern Michigan University. Occupational therapy is a competitive program which only a limited number of students are allowed to enter each semester.

Lloyd, an honor student, is currently a sophomore at Eastern, and will enter the occupational therapy program in the fall of 1994. Lloyd hopes to become an occupational therapist upon graduation from Eastern.

He is the son of Virgil L. and Pearl Varner of Belleville, and the grandson of Frederick W. and Helen Hay of Romulus and Marie Warner of Lincoln Park. □



# Obituaries

**Bobby James Ward, Jr.**

Bobby James Ward, Jr., of Romulus, Michigan, died on Sunday, March 6, 1994. He was 26 years old.

Bobby was born in Trenton, Michigan, on June 18, 1967, and had been employed as a welder.

He is survived by his son, Bobby J. Ward III (Texas); his daughter, Franceca O. Ward (Texas); his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby J. (Lela) Ward (Romulus, MI); and two sisters, Mrs. Victor (Linda Jo) Orta (Taylor, MI) and Mrs. Walter

(Elizabeth Ann) Dunayczan (Sumpter Township, MI).

Visitation for family and friends will be held at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI) on Thursday, March 10, from noon to 9 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the Funeral Home on Friday, March 11, with Pastor Donald McClellan (Romulus Wesleyan Church) officiating. Interment will be at Romulus Cemetery. Memorial tributes may be made to any charitable organization. □

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